

**Teton River Canyon  
Resource Management Plan & Environmental Assessment  
ISSUE SCOPING REPORT  
Spring - Summer 2005**

This Issues Scoping Report is intended to summarize all of the issues and comments collected during scoping for the Teton River Canyon RMP and EA. The issues were received from the following outreach efforts:

1. a series of informal outreach/introductory meetings held by Reclamation personnel with interested agencies and public groups (including: the Teton and Madison County Commissions, Rexburg City Council, Henrys Fork Watershed Council, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game);
2. public meetings held in Rexburg, Driggs, and Fort Hall on April 6, 7, and 25, 2005, respectively;
3. mail-in responses from the first RMP Newsbrief mailed to approximately 200 people and other mail correspondence; and
4. meetings held with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Preparation of this document reflects Reclamation's practice of: [1] reporting all input received on issues and opportunities pertinent to its Resource Management Plan efforts, and [2] considering this input in the process of making decisions on short- and long-term management of lands under the Agency's jurisdiction.

However, it should be noted that this reporting does not necessarily infer endorsement of all comments received. Situations often arise where opposing points of view exist regarding how issues or opportunities should be addressed, and a decision must ultimately be made on which direction the RMP will follow. All issues will be comprehensively analyzed and evaluated with many considerations in mind. Additionally, Federal laws and Reclamation regulations, policies, and/or authorities (or those of other involved agencies) can limit the range of feasible responses.

<b>Issues from Response Forms (newsbrief mail-in forms &amp; meeting comment forms)</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Provide for big game habitat	3
Improve habitat for T & E species	3
Control noxious weeds	8
Provide for commercial recreation opportunities	0
Maintain a primitive recreation experience	3
Keep recreation use at current levels	6
Facilitate increases in recreation use	0
Improve boat ramps	1
Define parking areas to limit use	1
Provide for agricultural uses	8
Provide interpretation on historic significance	2
Facilitate education opportunities	0
Protect cultural resources and sacred sites	1
Protect Indian Trust Assets	1
Improve fishing	3
Improve fish habitat	6
Maintain water quality	7
Improve law enforcement	0
Attempt to reduce vandalism	2
Maintain visual quality	0

Issues from Letters & Write-in Comments	Number of Responses
Fire prevention	1
Maintain aesthetic qualities of the canyon	1
Concern about waterflow stoppage by Felt power plant for surges. It produces silt and bank erosion and is bad for fishing and boating.	1
Improve access roads	2
Designate rustic campsites	1
Improve awareness of recreation	1
Maintain a sustainable population of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout	1
Enhance structural diversity of the channel	1
Improve fish habitat	1
Need for boat launch at Spring Hollow	1
Allow current level of recreation use to continue	1
Improve upper takeout site (1-mile above old dam site) for boats	1
Develop a boat ramp and visitor facilities above old dam site	1
Improve primitive camping /day-use stops along river	1
Restore shrub community in inundated areas	1
Protect & enhance mule deer wintering areas	1
Convert certain agricultural leases to permanent cover and wildlife habitat	1
Protect existing regeneration (cottonwood) in lower reaches near dam site	1
May be opportunities to plant willows or other woody species	1
Explore restoration of reed canarygrass to typical mix of riparian species.	1
Continue work on noxious weeds	1
Consider a winter closure of Reclamation lands to all human entry, especially along the north side rim for big-game	1

Issues, Comments & Questions from Government to Government Meeting Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes April 25, 2005
Are there rainbow & cutthroat trout?
Are the adjacent lands private?
Is this the last Yellowstone Cutthroat hold?
Have the cultural interests of the Tribe been determined?
Are deer, elk, moose populations sustained at this location?
Will or have big horn sheep been introduced at this location? Are there transplants near Bitch Creek?
Will Upper Snake River snail studies be tied to this RMP?
Are there any petroglyphs or caves?
Was land ever put in the Conservation Reserve Program?
When will BLM become involved in the process?
What studies have we done in the canyon?
Would like Tribal Cultural interests inventory
Would like co-management of resources & fisheries
What about liability if they were to co-manage?
Want copy of comments from other public meetings
Tribes not consulted at the time the dam was built
Land set aside for hunting permits
Want opportunity to contract for work

**Issues & Comments from Rexburg, ID Public Meeting  
April 6, 2005**

Concern about noxious weeds
Can Parkinson's lock their gate and deny public access to all but Teton Lodge?
Improve access to the canyon
Suggest using switchbacks to reduce erosion and improve access at Bitch Creek slide
Desire for interpretive signs and restrooms at overlook
Want legal public access routes more clearly identified
Inform people about Teton Flood Museum at the dam overlook area
Consider removing landslide material in places where it is constricting the river
Want to be notified when planning documents (issues & opportunities, goals, objectives) are available to look at. Want hard copies as well as website.
Concern about environmental protection
Want boat launch if water is deep enough
Build switchbacks from rim near overlook
Want historic interpretation at dam site
Use volunteers and students for projects
Too expensive to try to restore cutthroat habitat completely. Let them restore themselves. Do not wipe out other species at their expense
Try to plant landslide areas
Minimize commercialism and recreation
Desire to lease back Spring Hollow area and put it into a conservation easement area
Trespass (hunting) occurs now and don't want it any worse
Gate is being locked which is supposed to be open for public access. Need to make entire road public from Hog Hollow to river

**Issues & Comments from Driggs, ID Public Meetings  
April 7, 2005**

Area where topsoil was removed to build dam still needs to be reclaimed
Concern that dollars that went to IDFG to restore Teton Canyon were used elsewhere.
Farmers have helped keep soils stable along canyon rim after dam failure
Why not do one plan for Reclamation and BLM lands in the Canyon?
Noxious weed control needed
Landowners are concerned about access through private road to river. Turning road(s) over to public may help.
Leasee(s) would like to buy lands back from BOR
North road to old dam site sees a lot of vandalism
Farmed lands along Canyon creek seeing increasing public access and vandalism, hunting issues.
Farmers have done a great deal to make wildlife habitat better.
Fire is a concern along canyon rim by adjacent residents and landowners.
Law enforcement is minimal at best in this area
Lower Teton Canyon is known by IDFG as one of the worst for deer poaching
Poaching for fish is also a big problem, need more IDFG busts to get the word out
Need more woody species planted in the area. Reed canary grass better than no vegetation
If access remains minimal then not much more law enforcement would be needed.
Sense of some is that demand will increase, therefore access will need to be strictly controlled
Do not see need to open up anymore access. Spring Hollow is often trashed.
Seems to be a lot of "no trespassing" signs, gates, fences, and mentality in the area. Would like to see good public access, but limited.
No trespassing signs are out of a concern for lawsuits and recreation liability
Would like to see safety hazards in river cleared to make floating safer.
All access routes to canyon are open except road through Parkinson's which was closed due to road being torn up, crops destroyed, vandalism, and property damage

**Issues & Comments from Fort Hall, ID Public Meeting  
April 25, 2005**

Request that Tribal members have free access to Teton Flood Museum in Rexburg
Would like to add tribal history and interpretation to the displays at the Teton Flood Museum
Would like to see what the area looked like prior to building the dam
Concern over possibility of BLM exchanging lands in the project area. Concern about potential private demand in the future.
What cultural surveys were done prior to building the dam and what was found?
Will environmental justice for any future development be addressed in the plan?
Tribes would like to be co-managers along with Reclamation and BLM
Consideration for natural resources claims on and off reservation prior to and after dam construction
Amendment to Shoshone-Bannock land use ordinance to off-reservation regulations. Implement with an MOU.
Interested in employment opportunities associated with RMP such as monitoring, cultural surveys, studies, etc.
Recognize Tribal treaty and hunting rights; gathering & camping